Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01603 270943Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 /112 W

-----051469 271359Z/41

R 270645Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7886
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: YCW DETENTIONS: INTERNATIONAL PROTEST

REF: JOHANNESBURG A-69

- 1. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL JUNE 25 LOCAL PRESS ITEMS, THE INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST THE DETENTION OF 19 LEADERS OF THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM.
- 2. THE SUNDAY TIMES REPORTS THAT THE VATICAN SECRETARIAT OF STATE HAS ASKED ITS DELEGATION IN PRETORIA FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE WAVE OF YCW ARRESTS IN THE PAST SIX WEEKS.

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- 3. THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY SOUTHERN CROSS REPORTS THAT THE BRUSSELS BASED WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR HAS WRITTEN TO PRIMEMINISTER JOHN VORSTER ASKING HIM TO INTERVENE TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINED YCW LEADERS.
- 4. THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE AND BLACK CIRCULATION POST IN-

DICATE RECEIPT OF NUMEROUS PROTESTS FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

5. COMMENT: IN APPARENT RESPONSE TO YCW CHAPLAIN GERARD DE FLEURIOT'S CLAIM THAT THE ARREST OF YCW MEMBERS CONSTITUTES PERSECUTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE DEPUTY HEAD OF THE SECURITY POLICE, BRIGADIER JOHN COETZEE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID SUCH DETENTIONS ARE "NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTED AT ORGANIZATIONS BUT RATHER AT INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THEM". JOHNSON

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